

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5483

DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO
SUBJECT: LABOR PROGRAM IN PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 5172

SUMMARY: EMBASSY EXPLORED WITH PS LABOR STRATEGIST
MADUREIRA POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING A UNION-TO-UNION
PROGRAM. MADUREIRA RECEPTIVE TO IDEA BUT URGED DELAY
UNTIL SOCIALIST LABOR TRAINING FOUNDATION READY IN
OCTOBER. END SUMMARY.

1. LABATT MET WITH PRIME MINISTER'S LABOR ADVISOR
MADUREIRA JULY 15 TO INFORMALLY EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF INITIATING
A UNION-TO-UNION PROGRAM (AS ENVISIONED AS ONE ASPECT

OF PROPOSED AFL-CIO LABOR PROGRAM IN PORTUGAL).
MADUREIRA HAD RECENTLY REQUESTED PROGRAMMING ASSISTANCE
FOR GROUP OF MINE WORKERS (SEPTTEL).

2. SOCIALISTS URGE DELAY: MADUREIRA GENERALLY
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RECEPTIVE TO IDEA BUT URGED THAT INITIATIVE BE DELAYED
UNTIL OCTOBER. HE STATED THAT SOCIALISTS (PS) ARE
MOVING IN LABOR FIELD WITH ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM PRIME
MINISTER SOARES. MINISTER OF LABOR MALDONADO GONELHA,
MADUREIRA, AND FRG FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE
FISCHER WILL MEET JULY 15 TO PUT FINAL TOUCHES ON
PROPOSED JOSE FONTANA FOUNDATION WHICH WILL HANDLE LABOR

TRAINING FOR PS. MADUREIRA EXPECTED THAT FONTANA FOUNDATION WOULD BE LEGALLY ESTABLISHED NEXT WEEK. AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WOULD BE NEEDED FOR ORGANIZATION, ESTABLISHING QUARTERS, AND STAFFING, THUS SERIOUS PROGRAM DISCUSSIONS COULD NOT PROFITABLY BEHELD UNTIL OCTOBER.

3. FONTANA FOUNDATION: MADUREIRA INDICATED THAT FRG EBERT FOUNDATION IS PROVIDING MAJOR SUPPORT FOR NEW FONTANA FOUNDATION. IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF CAPTURE OF FOUNDATION BY PCP "SUBMARINES" AND PS LEFT-WINGERS, FONTANA FOUNDATION WILL HAVE THREE LEVELS OF DIRECTION. A FOUNDERS' COUNCIL WILL INCLUDE SOARES, MADUREIRA, MALDONADO GONELHA AND OTHER TRUSTED PS LEADERS. THE FOUNDERS' COUNCIL WILL APPOINT A DIRECTING BOARD WHICH WILL HAVE FULL POWER TO MANAGE THE FOUNDATION. A CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL, REPRESENTING UNIONS OF THE "OPEN LETTER" MOVEMENT AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC UNIONS, WILL ASSIST THE DIRECTING BOARD IN CARRYING OUT ITS TRAINING PROGRAM BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DETERMINE POLICY.

4. UNION-TO-UNION PROGRAM: MADUREIRA SAID THAT ASIDE FROM MINE WORKERS, ONLY UNION WHERE PS COULD WORK AT THIS TIME WITH CONFIDENCE IN A UNION-TO-UNION PROGRAM WOULD BE LISBON INSURANCE WORKERS. LISBON COMMERCIAL WORKERS UNION WAS LOST TO CGTP SLATE IN LAST ELECTION AND PS-CONTROLLED LISBON OFFICE WORKERS UNION IS BADLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SPLIT AND FACING AN ELECTION. OTHER PS-CONTROLLED UNIONS ARE TOO SMALL TO EFFECTIVELY CONDUCT A UNION-TO-UNION PROGRAM. OTHER MAJOR WHITE COLLAR UNIONS, INCLUDING LISBON BANK WORKERS, ARE CONTROLLED BY PSD. REFTEL INDICATED REASONS WHY PS NOT PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE A PROGRAM AT THIS TIME WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN PSD LABOR SECTOR AT PS EXPENSE.

5. COMMENT: MADUREIRA'S RESPONSE UNDERLINES FACTORS MENTIONED IN REFTEL REGARDING PS RELUCTANCE TO SEE AFL-CIO INAUGURATE A PROGRAM HERE BEFORE PS ITSELF IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE.
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